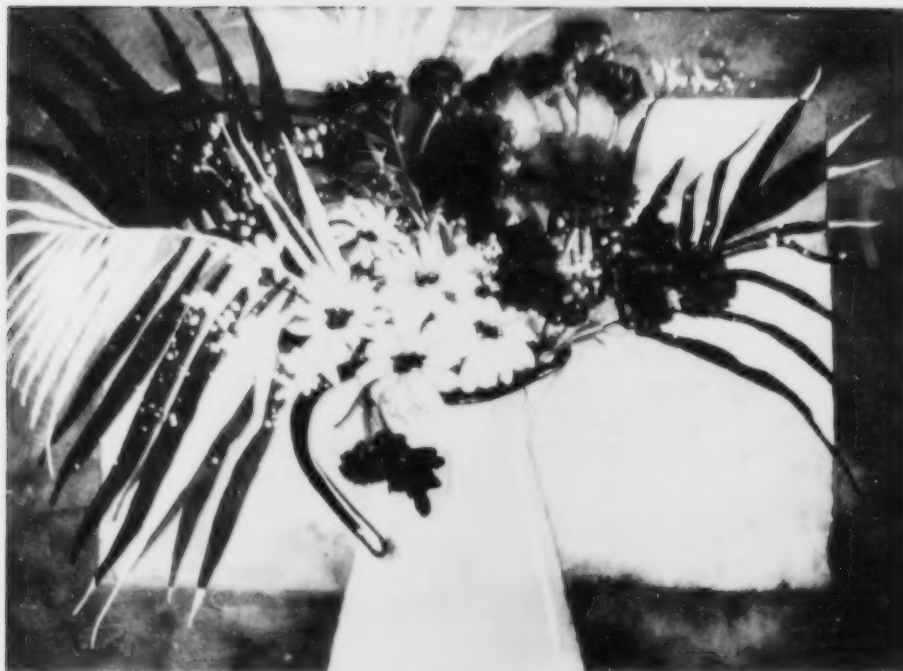


**ANNUAL REPORT
2002/2003**



**ACTIVITIES OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
APRIL 1, 2002 TO MARCH 31, 2003**



Daisies Last Longest

Digital photo of 20" x 28" watercolour by
Island artist and past PEI ACSW Director,
Lisa Murphy from Charlottetown, PEI.



105-06303/

Advisory Council on the
Status of Women

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December 2003

Honourable Gail Shea
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Dear Hon. Gail Shea,

I am pleased to present you with the 2002/2003 Annual Report of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

The Annual Report contains a summary of Council's activities,
publications, highlights of recommendations and audited financial
statements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "K. Lund".

Kirstin Lund
Chairperson

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is dedicated to equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, political, and spiritual spheres of life.

Being part of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is a rewarding and inspiring experience. Our organization plays a key role in effecting change for the betterment of society.

The Council continues to honour those who contribute to equality through the annual EQUALITY Recognition Awards presented on International Women's Day. As well, this year, we hosted a special celebration of women with our new event *"IWD Cabaret - A Celebration of Women and Song."* We continue to remember the victims of the Montreal Massacre at l'Ecole Polytechnique in 1989 and all victims of violence through our annual Purple Ribbon Campaign. This campaign has increased awareness and visibility during the last few years with 22,000 ribbons and information cards distributed during November and December.

One of the most satisfying aspects of our Council's work is our policy development process that continues to illustrate how provincial government policies can be developed to support Island women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, and political spheres of life. This year, we released two policy packages - *Women's Health* and *Women and Unpaid Work*. Both items were the result of Council priorities, community consultation, and staff research. Upon release, the packages received considerable media coverage that helped to inform and educate Islanders. And, Council representatives met with the appropriate Department representatives to outline recommendations for change as indicated by the consultation and research process.

The Advisory Council's profile has grown over the past year. This has been the result of ongoing work in the community along with our own website, publications, policy guides, and expanded media attention. As well, we have worked to provide some bilingual services, offering Purple Ribbon information cards in both French and English and making policy guides available in both official languages.

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Violence against women remains at the forefront of concerns being addressed by the Advisory Council. Work on prevention is far from over. And, one area that requires focused attention is financial, educational, and emotional support for women leaving violent relationships. Poverty is another priority. This province is going to face major problems in the years ahead if it fails to recognize today's reality. With so many women working in part-time jobs with low wages and no pension plan, the future appears bleak for these workers during their retirement years.

All this work is the result of having the voices of Island women represented through our Council members. Please view the profiles of these women in this report. They are your community's link to the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Sincerely,

Patricia Roy – Chairperson



Patricia Roy – Chairperson (April 2000 – present)

Council term: January 27, 1998 to January 27, 2003)

Patricia has served as a Council member since January 1998 and as Chairperson since April 2000. She is a freelance writer and journalist with the Journal Pioneer in Summerside and the mother of five children. Patricia is bilingual and has worked as a nurse, homemaker, farmer, entrepreneur, and artisan before becoming a journalist. She serves on the Executive of l'Association des Acadiennes et Francophones de l'I.-P.-E. and is an executive member of the Summerside Y's Service Club. Patricia is also currently serving as a committee member of the East Prince Committee on Family Violence and the PEI Women's Coalition, a family legal aid justice committee. She resides in Enmore.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The Advisory Council began in 1975 as an Order-In-Council. In 1988 the Council received full legislative standing with the *PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act*. The PEI ACSW Act establishes the size of the Council; the number of Council meetings (currently four meetings per year); the reporting structure between the Chairperson and Minister Responsible; and, the mandate to monitor status of women issues, advise the provincial government and develop public awareness about issues affecting women.

- Serves as a community arm to the provincial government and acts as a liaison and advisor regarding issues identified by communities and individual women in PEI
- Informs the Minister Responsible on the Status of Women through monthly meetings and regular correspondence about events and issues concerning women's equality
- Conducts research and offers recommendations to government departments, committees, royal commissions, special task forces and community consultations
- Recommends policy programs and legislation which promote equality of opportunity
- Initiates and participates in projects of benefit to Island women with women's groups, committees, and government departments
- Initiates and/or participates in speaking engagements, conferences, media conferences and other public education activities
- Responds to enquiries from individuals, organizations and government
- Provides leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness about issues identified by community and government regarding the status of women
- Meets with other provincial/territorial Advisory Councils

The Council is an arm's length advisory agency and achieves its mandate through its unique relationship with both government and the community. Over the years, the Council has developed a policy of commitment toward feminist process in conducting its affairs and in problem resolution.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The Council is a nine-member volunteer Board. The Chairperson receives honouraria for five days per month and members receive honouraria on Council meeting days.

To promote continuity, Executive Council appoints the Chairperson from existing members. For other appointments, the Council provides the Minister Responsible with the names of Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality. Executive Council then makes the appointments, based on the recommendations of the Minister Responsible.

Council business is directed and determined mainly at council meetings four times per year. In 2002-03 the meetings were:

- 75th meeting, Orwell - June 26, 2002
- 76th meeting, Charlottetown - September 25, 2002
- 77th meeting, Charlottetown - January 22, 2003
- 78th meeting, Charlottetown - March 26, 2003

In addition to four full council meetings each year, members of the Council met by phone and in person.

Members are appointed by the Executive Council and usually represent regional, cultural and ethnic diversity (i.e. youth, lesbian, Aboriginal women, Francophone women, women of colour, disabled women). Council members are appointed for two and three-year terms.

COUNCIL MEMBERS



In memory of Inge Blackett

Inge Blackett – Vice Chairperson (April 5, 2000 – December 2002)

Council term: January 27, 1998 - January 27, 2003

Sadly, Inge died in December 2002. Inge Blackett was appointed to the Advisory Council in 1998 and served as Vice-Chairperson. Her contributions to Council were significant. Her commitment to women's equality was always present. Inge shared her knowledge and experience on many of the Advisory Council's issues including seniors, health care and education. Her compassion for others was reflected in her tireless volunteer efforts in the community. Inge died following a battle with cancer in December 2002. She will be missed.



Maxine Ellis – Treasurer

Council term: January 27, 1998 - November 9, 2003

Maxine is a Financial Services Officer/Investment Specialist employed at Central Credit Union Limited in O'Leary. She volunteers with various community organizations including charities, non-profit organizations, sports events and church-related activities. Maxine lives in West Cape with her husband and son.

COUNCIL MEMBERS



Jackie MacNeill Doiron – Member

Council term: November 9, 1999 - November 9, 2003

A graduate of UPEI and Holland College, Jackie works at the Summerside Taxation Centre and commutes daily from her home in Charlottetown. An active volunteer and fundraiser, Jackie is especially committed to her community and the lives of women who live there.



Valerie Smallman – Member

Council term: September 29, 1998 – September 29, 2003

Valerie is the Family Violence Prevention Coordinator for the West Prince region. The service that she provides: Confidential crisis and support service to women and their children affected by abuse, public education/trainings on the issue of family violence, support groups for women, and oversees the operation of a safe house which provides safe and supportive housing for women and their children who can no longer stay in their own homes due to abuse. Valerie is an active community member with groups such as: Kids West Prenatal Nutrition Program, Youth Issues/Youth Crime, PEI Rape/Sexual Assault Crisis Centre.

COUNCIL MEMBERS



Joan Savage – Member

Council term: April 4, 2000 – April 4, 2003

Joan is the Nurse Manager of Public Health Nursing with the East Prince Health Authority at the Summerside Health Centre. Joan has been presenting health information to women across the Island for over 20 years through Holland College, East Prince Women's Information Centre and the public health system. She is also actively involved in the Well Women's Health Coalition that provides a province-wide campaign for the prevention of breast and cervical cancer. She lives with her family in Summerside.



Wendy MacLaren – Member

Council term: October 10, 2000 - October 10, 2003

Wendy is a Certified Early Childhood Educator and works with the Morell Early Childhood Development Centre. She has an extensive background working with youth as a teacher assistant, substitute teacher, special needs assistant, and workshop facilitator before receiving her certification in early childhood education. Active in her community, Wendy has volunteered with Girl Guides, minor sports, home & school and 4-H. Wendy lives in Morell with her family.

COUNCIL MEMBERS



Elaine Rabinowitz – Member

Council term: January 28, 2003 – January 28, 2006

Elaine Rabinowitz is a Registered Nurse and works with Community Mental Health in Summerside. She is a founding and current member of the East Prince Committee on Family Violence, a member of the Provincial Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee and a previous board member of Transition House Association. Elaine also contributed to the board of the PEI Multicultural Association and was active in Home and School and Guiding.



Kirstin Lund – Member

Council term: January 28, 2003 – January 28, 2006

Kirstin is a conflict resolution consultant offering services in mediation, facilitation and conflict resolution training. A faculty member of UPEI's Centre for Conflict Resolution Studies since 1998, Kirstin teaches courses in mediation, communication skills and restorative justice. Since leaving the practice of law in 1996, she has coordinated many provincial and Atlantic projects related to conflict resolution, woman abuse prevention and the advancement of women's equality. Kirstin is a member of the Woman Abuse and the PEI Justice System Research Team of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research. She has also served on the boards of several organizations committed to equality, fairness and the advancement of the status of women including Women's Network PEI, Transition House Association, the Conflict Resolution Co-operative of PEI, and the PEI Crime Prevention Association.

COUNCIL MEMBERS



June Sencabaugh – Member

Council term: January 28, 2003 – January 28, 2006

June Sencabaugh is past president of the Northumberland Minor Hockey Association and a former Village Commissioner for Murray River. She is also appointed for a three-year term as Council member. June is an active member of the Northumberland Recreation Association, a founding member of the Montague Figure Skating Association, and is involved with the community Eagles View Golf Course. She worked many years with Island Tel as a service representative and is presently retired. June is a past recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal.



In memory of Rosemary Faulkner

Rosemary Faulkner served as a Council member for two and a half years and was appointed in January 1998. Rosemary worked with the Canadian Mental Health Association, PEI Division and PEI Self-Help Clearing House. She chaired the advisory panel for the Atlantic Breast Cancer Information Project, facilitated by the Breast Cancer Network and was actively involved with the PEI Pottery Studio. Rosemary died in February 2003.

COUNCIL STAFF

The Council has one full-time and three part-time staff. Betty Belaire and Sandy Kowalik work on contract in resource and project coordination. Lisa Murphy resigned as Director in May 2002 following a two-year leave.



Director, Heidi Rankin joined Council in April 1997 as the Communications Coordinator; worked in the position of Acting Director since May 2000; and began Director duties following Lisa Murphy's resignation in May 2002. Collaboration and networking are central to Heidi's work with the Council.



Administrative Assistant, Becky Tramley works part-time and joined Council in October 1986.



Researcher/Policy Analyst, Patricia MacAulay joined the staff in November 2000 and works part-time.



Communications Coordinator, Cheryl J. Dalziel joined the staff in November 2000 and works part-time.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Members and staff carry out the work of Council in various ways including:

- Information Service
- Annual Events
- Research and Publications
- Partnerships and Committees
- Public Speaking and Media
- Consultations with Ministers of Government

INFORMATION SERVICE

The Advisory Council responds to enquiries from individuals and groups, government, and the media on a variety of questions and issues. The enquiries range from requests for documented or statistical information to referrals, crisis calls, and calls for advocacy support. People make enquiries in person, by correspondence, telephone, or email. Requests for information in crisis or advocacy situations are often complex calls from women who have tried to get information or service without success. The Advisory Council does not have the mandate to advocate for individual women; however, it offers support with information, referrals, and at times interventions with formal systems. Concerns raised by individual women often lead to policy development by Council to deal with the underlying systemic discrimination.

Folks visiting the 9 Queen Street office of the Advisory Council, located across from the Delta Prince Edward, view the large window exhibit of featured women artists of the Island. Advisory Council sponsored initiatives such as the Purple Ribbon Campaign about ending violence against women or special events like the Council's Cabaret celebrating International Women's Day are promoted in the large window areas at the front of the Council's office throughout the year. Visibility and access to the Advisory Council's work has increased dramatically through its profile and homepage on the provincial government website, www.gov.pe.ca/acsw

COUNCIL BUSINESS

ANNUAL EVENTS

The Council sponsors annual events that help to keep women's contributions and issues in the public view.

International Women's Day (IWD) EQUALITY Recognition Awards

The 11th Annual EQUALITY Recognition Awards were held as part of International Women's Day (IWD) celebrations on Friday, March 7, 2003 at the Arts Guild in Charlottetown. The 2003 winners were:

Individual ~ Marlene Bryenton has spent her life working on programs and projects close to her heart that support women living with breast cancer.

Organization or Group ~ L'Acadie c'matin, the French morning radio program, produced by Radio-Canada, brings awareness of and actively promotes activities important for women such as the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence, IWD, and family violence.

Employer ~ Kevin O'Brien's (Island Services Network) respectful approach to the ambitions and family responsibilities of his female employees help his staff reach their leadership and management potential.

Lifetime Achievement ~ Anne Marie Perry is known as a leader, innovator, mentor, businesswoman, and mother. She has made a significant impact at the local, regional, provincial and national level. During Anne Marie's term on the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, she was instrumental in developing policy recommendations such as pension reform, pay equity, and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Special Recognition: Women in Sport ~ Becoming an Outdoors-Woman® BOW is an international outdoor education program designed especially for women. The program is driven by volunteers who believe that women should have access to the skills and knowledge, along with the joy associated with being in the outdoors.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

ANNUAL EVENTS

International Women's Day Cabaret - A Celebration of Women and Song

No politics. No fundraising. Fun, laughter, good company, delicious food, and great music were on the agenda for the annual Cabaret. Thanks to a grant from the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (ACEWH), the Advisory Council was able to host a very memorable IWD celebration in 2003. Twenty-four talented Island musicians took the stage at the Arts Guild Hall on Saturday, March 8 to entertain a capacity crowd that was filled with high spirits and positive energy.

Purple Ribbon Campaign

December 6th is the National Day of Remembrance and Action, which commemorates the murder of 14 female engineering students in Montreal in 1989. The Council's 11th Purple Ribbon Campaign, with the support of the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention and council staff and volunteers distributed over twenty-two thousand purple ribbons on cards with information and statistics about family violence on PEI. Islanders are encouraged to wear the purple ribbon on or near December 6th to remember all women who are victims of violence. Seven women have been murdered on PEI since the 1989 Massacre in Montreal. French and English cards and ribbons were distributed to the civil service, junior and senior high schools, Women's Institute members, Island women's groups, police, RCMP, and individuals. The Advisory Council helped organize the noontime December 6 Memorial Service at the Confederation Centre. Over two hundred Islanders attended the emotional service.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

ANNUAL EVENTS

Advisory Council Post-Secondary Education Bursary

Each year the Council awards bursaries to two women to help them continue their studies. The Advisory Council's annual bursaries were awarded this year to Sharon Laybolt in the Medical Support Services at Holland College and Tammy MacDonald in the Nursing Program at the University of Prince Edward Island.

Advisory Council Engineering Bursary

Bursary is awarded to a woman entering third-year engineering at UPEI in recognition and support of women pursuing non-traditional fields. The bursary was established in 1995 by the Government of PEI on the Twentieth Anniversary of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The bursary supports the Council's work to encourage young women to choose careers in math and science fields and also pays tribute to the fourteen women engineering students who were murdered at L'Ecole Polytechnique in 1989.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

The Advisory Council composes regular and special publications on policy issues affecting women's equality for release to government and the public. The Advisory Council carefully examines services, programs and policies that both the provincial and federal government put in place to determine the impact these will have on women and families on PEI. The Advisory Council uses gender-based analysis research tools as it takes into consideration social and economic differences between women and men at every stage of policy development as well as the policy outcome. It looks at the potential differential impacts of policies, programs and legislation on women and men and whether the results are equitable for women, men, boys and girls. The analysis looks at various diversities among women such as age, class, economic status and sexual orientation. All of the Advisory Council's publications are written incorporating gender-based analysis and feminist analysis.

Policy Guides and Background Materials

The Advisory Council's policy guides and background materials are published following consultation, research and analysis of topic areas set by members of the Advisory Council at their regular meetings. The two main purposes of the policy guides are for public education and for submission to government representatives in order to positively influence programs and/or legislation that affect the status of girls and women of PEI. The policy guides offer informative comparative analysis of the topic-at-hand and relevant recommendations for government intervention. Each guide contains various background materials such as FAQs, Summaries, Fact Listings, Chronologies, and Media Releases. Previous issues addressed in the policy guides were Family Law and Addictions Services for Women.

Women's Health – September 2002

The Women's Health Policy Guide, released in September 2002, focuses on women's unique roles in health care and on their particular service requirements -- when it comes to health, it matters whether you are man or a woman. As the most frequent consumers and providers of health care, women have a unique interaction with the province's health care system and one of the reasons why the Council chose to consult Island women on this issue, conduct research, and make recommendations for change to the Province of PEI. During consultations, the Advisory Council learned that there were two major health-related concerns for Island women: 1) Women's life circumstances as caretakers make their views on health issues and their health care needs unique to their gender, and 2) women take a broad view of health and they want their health care providers to serve them accordingly.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Policy Guides and Background Materials continued

Women and Unpaid Work – January 2003

The Advisory Council publicly released its policy guide on Women and Unpaid Work as part of its January Council meeting. This guide illustrates that most Island women do a great deal of work without financial remuneration and that a number experience unfair policies and legislation. The invisibility of women's unpaid work compounds women's inequity and does result in governments making inaccurate fiscal and policy decisions. Following consultation and research, recommendations were formulated and shared with Minister Responsible Pat Mella; Elmer MacFadyen, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs; and Premier Pat Binns. The Advisory Council specifically requested that the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs sponsor a public education and awareness campaign on women and unpaid work, and also conduct a participatory study that measures and analyzes contributions being made by Island women to the Island's three main industries - tourism, farming, and fishing.

Early Childhood Care and Education – draft

The Advisory Council prepared a draft policy guide in January 2003 on the equality issues associated with early childhood care and education. Early research indicates that, though it is the norm for women with young children to be in the workforce, it is difficult for them to access high quality and affordable child care and education. At the same time, childcare workers, mostly women, are working in stressful conditions for low wages and few benefits. The lack of commitment to providing universal and quality child care and education to pre-school children means that, as the consumers and providers of market-driven services, women face considerable barriers to their equality and to their full and active participation in society. Canada continues to be one of the only industrialized countries without a national child care program. Following further consultation and analysis, the guide with recommendations will be released in June 2003.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Family Law Policy Guide Report Card

In September 2002, the Advisory Council published the provincial government's progress report in response to recommendations in the Council's Family Law Policy Guide. During a meeting held in May 2002 with Attorney General Jeff Lantz and Assistant Attorney General, Patsy MacLean, Minister Lantz ensured his Ministry would provide written response to each of the ten recommendations. The Report Card indicates that the Conservative Government has taken a number of steps toward improving policy, program and legislation for all Islanders, but especially women and children. For example, the Report Card outlines government's efforts to increase training to agency staff, mediators, lawyers and judges about the realities of family violence and after effects. The Office of the Attorney General promised to work with the federal government to support legislative amendments that reduce an adversarial approach and focus on the best interests of the child, and improve legal aid services for those who require assistance and representation in family law matters. With the creation of the Family Law Section, progress has been made toward an integrated and coordinated approach to the delivery of family law services. Where mandates overlapped, commitments from the Child, Family and Community Services were included in the booklet.

Submission to the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada - Romanow Commission

In the final minutes of the April 18 proceedings, the Advisory Council presented its gendered perspective on the future of health care to the Romanow Commission. Based on findings and analysis from the Council's recently held community consultations held regarding health care policy in the province, the Advisory Council provided input into the Commission's stated themes. In addition to input on Canadian values and how they should be reflected in the Canada Health Act, other issues discussed were sustainability and funding; quality and access; leadership, collaboration and responsibility. The Council also articulated that women have particular sex and gender-based health needs and that it is women who do most of the health care work in the country. The presenters urged the Commission to conduct its mission asking questions about potential impacts on the health and well being of women - a gender lens tool - and to affirm and support the enormous, often unpaid, contribution that women make to Canada's health care system.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Moving On – 2,000 Booklets Reprinted

Moving On - A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship provides plain language information about the practicalities of leaving a long-term relationship. The community itself established the need for this resource. Many of the calls staff and Council members receive are about family law issues, in general, and the separation process, in particular. The booklet is free and distributed widely.

A Baker's Dozen – 2nd Reprint

The Advisory Council has reprinted its 25th Anniversary publication entitled, *A Baker's Dozen*. The booklet profiles the 13 women who served as Council Chairpersons from 1975 to 2000. It includes articles, quotations of the day, biographies and wonderful photographs from each woman's "herstory."

PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

Advisory Council staff and members participate in provincial, national and even international initiatives that advance the status of Island women. Provincial and nation-wide coalitions and steering committees often form to collaborate and implement research and community events and project initiatives that the Advisory Council would not be able to support on its own.

Complementary and Alternative Medicine Series

The Advisory Council partnered with Island Alternative Medicine Professionals to present a Healthcare Options for Women Series. Following up on requests from women during consultations for the Women's Health Policy Guide, Council staff organized a series of information sessions coordinated by Daniel Schulman, a Charlottetown acupuncturist. Eight sessions were held weekly in the Charlottetown area during the winter months. They were well-attended and focused on the areas of Naturopathy, Homeopathy, Acupuncture, Reflexology, Osteopathy, Brennan Healing Science and Massage.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

National Coalition of Provincial/ Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women

The Coalition met in Halifax in October 2002 with PEI and NF/LB as co-chairs. Discussions centered around four themes: the state of equality-seeking work in our communities, provinces and territories; women's economic security; gender-based analysis; and impending changes to divorce legislation and the issues of custody and access. Following the formal meetings, the Coalition held a press conference to consider the need for a new Royal Commission on the Status of Women – thirty years since the first one was formed. The Coalition called upon the federal government to re-examine important factors affecting the state of women's equality, such as poverty and violence. The Coalition prepared drafts of support materials for discussion purposes in the community and with government leaders. Letters of support were sent from many provinces, endorsed by Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women as well as Senators, MPs and in some cases, Premiers. The PEI Advisory Council plans to meet with Island women and women's groups to discuss the idea, along with potential formats to share the voices of grassroots women on these important issues.



Advisory Council Coalition: L-R: Back Row: Mary Lou Stirling, Chair, NB; Sue Barnsley, Exec. Dir, MB; Kim Clare, Chair, MB; Patricia Roy, Chair, PEI; Barbara Saunders, Exec. Dir, NWT; Gerri Sharpe-Staples, Chair, NWT; Brigitte Neumann, Exec. Dir, Nova Scotia. Front Row: Rita Warner, Chair, NS; Heidi Rankin, Director, PEI; Joyce Hancock, President, NL; Madeleine Qumuatug, President, NU; Maureen Doherty, Exec. Dir, NU.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

CUPE Women's Committee and Advisory Council support for Local 3373 female strikers

In June 2002, the CUPE Women's Committee approached Council to support five female members of Local 3373. They have been on strike for fair wages and working conditions from Southern Kings Group Home, a community board employer, since May 29th. The Advisory Council requested government leadership in the matter because of two issues: the prevalence of similar board structures in the province who are unable to meet employees' requests of this nature; and that human services workers deserve adequate compensation for their training and skills. A letter and petition were sent to the Premier's office and to the Minister of Health. Council staff members joined the Federation of Labour to celebrate International Women's Day with the strikers from CUPE Local 3373 in Montague on March 8, 2003. Council staff spoke briefly and reminded the striking women and supporters that International Women's Day originated with women's labour action in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The promotional materials for the Advisory Council's 2003 IWD events illustrated the similarities between earlier labour strikes for equity and the current strike at the Southern Kings Group Home.

Community Coalition on Family Violence Prevention

The Advisory Council called together equality-seeking groups and individuals to respond to the family violence crisis on the Island following Debbie Holmes's murder in July. One of the major concerns identified was appropriate sentencing for violent crimes in the family violence context. The Coalition formed and organized weekly vigils in front of the Supreme Court to highlight these issues. The vigils began in July and concluded on October 30, coinciding with the launch of the Advisory Council's Purple Ribbon Campaign. Coalition representatives met with Attorney General Jeff Lantz to discuss sentencing concerns as well as other related issues. As a result of these meetings, Hon. Jeff Lantz took the Coalition's concerns to the Justice Ministers F/P/T meetings.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

Parental Benefits Review Committee

The Advisory Council serves on the advisory committee for the research project that examines parental benefits in Atlantic Canada. Women's Network PEI has taken the lead and will collaborate with the Women for Economic Equality Society in Nova Scotia, the Women's Research and Action Committee in New Brunswick, and the Bay St. George Status of Women Council in Stephenville, Newfoundland. With funding from Status of Women Canada, the project examines whether current parental benefits legislation is equitable for all women. Project coordinators will host focus groups to hear from women about their experiences regarding parental benefits.

Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention

The Advisory Council has been appointed to this committee which is a partnership between community and government. The Committee received a second five-year mandate and created a new five-year strategy. The themes are: Awareness, Education and Training; Partnerships and Coordination; Service Delivery; Policy; Legislation and Legal Issues; and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Woman Abuse Protocols

Initiated by the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, a Coalition for Woman Abuse Policies and Protocols in PEI was formed in 1998. The Advisory Council was invited to join the Coalition during Phase 4, which focused on evaluation and sustainability.

SAGE

A representative from the Advisory Council sits on the SAGE Board of Directors (previously SAS: Services for Adult Survivors of Sexual Assault and Abuse). SAGE provides non-therapeutic services to, and on behalf of, adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse and assault. Most recently, SAGE sponsored a project with funding assistance from Health Canada entitled, *Empowering the Community to Influence Public Policy: Putting Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse on the Health Agenda*.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

Montreal Massacre December 6 Service Planning Committee

In addition to its annual research and coordination of the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence, the Advisory Council participated with other organizations working on violence prevention in the planning of a memorial service. The candlelight noontime service was held for a large gathering in Memorial Hall at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown.

Early Childhood Development Presentation

The Advisory Council partnered with the Early Childhood Development Association of PEI (ECDA) for a joint presentation to Island Members of Parliament on Friday, October 18th. The presenters sought the MP's support for a national child care program that ensures access to high quality and affordable child care for all Canadian families. The Advisory Council outlined the background -- thirty years of promises for such a program dating back to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in 1972 and described its potential benefits for real equality for women and for economic growth in the country. ECDA presenters provided personal stories illustrating the real-life impact on communities, the industry, and child care workers when governments fail to keep their promises. They also outlined the benefits of regulated child care on children's development. The presentation stimulated good discussion and increased awareness on the part of the MPs.

Literacy Alliance Project

As a result of the Advisory Council's involvement in past research about the health of single mothers on social assistance, the Council was invited to sit on the Steering Committee for a project to create a booklet entitled, Your Welfare Rights and Responsibilities in PEI, A Plain Language Guide. The Advisory Council has received calls for years from women who are considering leaving a relationship and want to understand all their financial options, including social assistance.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

Diversity Education Standing Committee

The Advisory Council was appointed to this committee that reports directly to the Minister of Education to ensure that gender perspective is included in its educational materials. The work of the committee is often reflected in new or revised curriculum in the schools as well as projects, research, and events for students and teachers across the Island.

Victim Services Advisory Committee

The Advisory Council Director was appointed to this committee and has served as Co-Chair since the fall of 2002. The Committee reviews legislation, policies and procedures; and does research and develops guidelines to benefit victims of crime. The Victim Services Advisory Committee makes recommendations directly to the Attorney General. Its membership includes representatives from relevant government departments, agencies and community organizations.

Social Justice and Legal Aid for Women on PEI Project Advisory Group

Funded by Status of Women Canada, this project is operated by the PEI Women's Coalition, a collection of equality-seeking groups who see a dire need for improved access to legal aid services on Prince Edward Island. The project has collected first-person narratives describing the difficulties in accessing legal aid and has developed an analysis that details PEI's services and compares them to the rest of the country. Project leaders, Women's Network PEI and the East Prince Women's Information Centre, have shared this research provincially and nationally. The project has moved into education, advocacy, and communications while the Province of PEI makes changes in its overall delivery of family law services.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

The Advisory Council pursues regular opportunities to share views or information about issues that affect women, and children and families, for example, regular opinion pieces in Guardian newspaper and press releases. Opportunities can be proactive as in press releases, annual events, or scheduled press conferences; and also as public presentations at conferences, meetings, or public events. Information sharing can also be reactive as in response to something in the news or the community, usually by way of the media.

Public Speaking Selected Highlights

- Guest speaker at media conference for PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada Project, *Interpretive Services and Support for Newcomers who are Victims of Violence*
- Presentation to UPEI Administrative Professional's Development Program on *Professional Presence*
- Presentation on panel for PEI Teachers' Federation Annual Conference re: Gender and Diversity in the Classroom
- Guest speaker at the Voluntary Resource Council AGM about volunteerism
- Guest speaker at NF/LB Advisory Council meeting about PEI equality issues and Council's work
- Presentation to Romanow Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada
- Moderated panel for Human Rights Commission entitled, *Woman and Work: Glass Ceiling Revisited*

Media Interviews Selected Issue Highlights

- Community beauty pageants
- International Women's Day
- Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence
- Sexual discrimination in the workplace
- Policy Guide press conferences: Unpaid Work and Women's Health
- Local CUPE health care workers' strike
- Coalition of Advisory Councils' annual meeting press conference

COUNCIL BUSINESS

CONSULTATIONS WITH MINISTERS OF GOVERNMENT

Along with regular meetings to update the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women about the Advisory Council's work, the Minister would meet with Council staff and members for discussion on specific issues. The Advisory Council met with other elected members of provincial, federal, and municipal levels of government, depending on the issues jurisdiction.

Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

The Advisory Council meets monthly with the PEI Minister Responsible for the Status of Women to discuss emerging issues of concern to Island women, and keep the Minister informed on the Council's work. An example of an equality issue that was discussed with the Minister was what the Council considered an unfair tax being imposed on women, and only women. In April, the Advisory Council requested that the Hon. Pat Mella, Provincial Treasurer and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, consider removing the sales tax from feminine hygiene products since taxing essential and necessary products used exclusively by women is unfair and discriminatory, especially for low-income women. At another meeting, the Advisory Council facilitated a discussion on early childhood care and education with Minister Mella and a representative from the Early Childhood Development Association (ECDA). This discussion supported the work already done on its draft policy guide on this topic. The Minister also attended Council meetings whenever possible where she participated in discussions.

Government Ministers

Council Chairperson and staff met with provincial Ministers and provincial government department's representatives to advocate on issues for change in policies, services or programs that impact on women, children and families disproportionately. Federal MP Shawn Murphy and Senator Catherine Callbeck met with the Advisory Council on a regular basis throughout the year. Attorney General Jeff Lantz met with the Council several times and initiated several consultations relating to family law and family violence issues. Hon. Gail Shea, Community and Cultural Affairs Minister, consulted with Council regarding labour issues. Council contacted Hon. Jamie Ballem on health matters and women's equity; for example, the Council shared their concerns in a letter to the Health Minister regarding the closure of Lacey House on Pownal Street and the opening of the Fitzroy Street facility with lower capacity for its female clients.

AUDITOR GENERAL

CHARLOTTETOWN
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

I have audited the balance sheet of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women as at March 31, 2003 and the statements of revenues, expenditures and surplus and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. These standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2003 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



Colin Younker, CA
Auditor General

Charlottetown, P.E.I.
May 21, 2003

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT 1

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

BALANCE SHEET

MARCH 31, 2003

	2003	2002
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$6,484	\$5,653
Accounts receivable	1,821	814
Prepaid expenses	513	538
	<u>\$8,818</u>	<u>\$7,005</u>
LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$9,042	\$6,133
Surplus	776	872
	<u>\$8,818</u>	<u>\$7,005</u>

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairperson

Member

[Signature]
[Signature]

STATEMENT 2

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND SURPLUS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2003

	2003	2002
Revenues		
Provincial appropriation - Note 2	\$148,800	\$148,800
Program revenues	2,500	
Miscellaneous revenues	10	190
	<u>151,310</u>	<u>148,990</u>
Expenditures		
Administration	4,520	4,895
Bursary	500	500
Conferences	2,781	2,616
Equipment leases - Notes 1(b) and 3	2,410	2,630
Equipment purchases - Note 1(a)	1,435	2,546
Honoraria	12,242	11,445
Materials and supplies	8,107	3,658
Program expenses	7,441	5,743
Salaries and benefits	111,284	105,966
Travel - In Province	<u>4,572</u>	<u>4,528</u>
	<u>151,408</u>	<u>148,527</u>
Net income (loss) for the year	(90)	463
Surplus, beginning of year	872	409
Surplus, end of year	<u>\$ 776</u>	<u>\$ 872</u>

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

STATEMENT 3

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2003

	2003	2002
Cash flows From Operating Activities		
Cash received from Province of PEI for operations	\$148,500	\$148,500
Cash received from programs	2,500	-
Cash received from miscellaneous revenues	10	190
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(110,533)	(109,990)
Cash paid for materials and services	(39,946)	(37,475)
Net increase in cash	831	1,525
Cash, beginning of year	5,653	4,128
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 6,484</u>	<u>\$ 5,653</u>

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2003

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

These statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for Not-For-Profit organizations. Accordingly:

(a) Capital assets are expensed when purchased. The Council spent \$1,435 (2002 - \$2,545) on office and computer equipment during the year.

(b) Leases are treated as operating leases and lease costs are expensed as they become due.

2. Provincial Appropriation

The Provincial Appropriation amount of \$148,500 includes an operating grant of \$144,300 and other provincial grants totalling \$4,500.

3. Equipment Lease

A photocopier is leased until August 31, 2006 and the annual lease commitments are \$2,630.

4. Pension Costs

Employees of the Council are members of the Prince Edward Island Civil Service Superannuation Plan. The employer's share of the plan benefits plus any additional future actuarial liabilities are assumed by the Province of PEI and are not reflected in the Council's financial statements.

CHAPTER A-6

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ACT

1. In this Act	Definition
(a) "Minister" means the Minister responsible for the status of women as designated by the Executive Council;	Minister
(b) "Council" means the Council established under section 2, 1988, c.7, s.1.	Council
2. There is established an Advisory Council on the Status of Women.	Council
3. The Council shall	Functions
(a) develop public awareness of the issues affecting the status of women;	
(b) promote a change in attitudes within the community in order that women may enjoy an equality of opportunity;	
(c) encourage discussion and expression of opinion by Island residents on issues affecting the status of women;	
(d) advise the Minister with respect to such issues as the Minister may refer to the Council for consideration;	
(e) review policies and legislation affecting women and report its findings to the relevant governmental departments or agencies;	
(f) provide assistance to the Minister in promoting changes to ensure the attainment of equality objectives of women; and	
(g) provide assistance, as the Council deems appropriate, to organizations and groups whose objectives promote the equality of women. 1988, c.7, s.3.	
4. The Council may	Powers
(a) receive and hear submissions and suggestions from individuals and groups concerning the status of women;	
(b) research matters relating to the status of women and suggest research areas in relation thereto that may be studied by any interested person;	
(c) recommend and participate in programs concerning the status of women;	
(d) recommend legislation, policies and practices to promote equality of opportunity for women and to improve the status of women;	
(e) publish such reports, studies and recommendations as the Council feels advisable; and	

		(f) present reports to the Minister for presentation to the Legislative Assembly. 1988, c.7, s.4.
Composition	5.	(1) The Council shall consist of nine members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
Term of office		(2) The members of the Council shall be appointed for a term of not less than two and not more than three years.
Reappointment		(3) A member is eligible for reappointment for a second term of not less than one and not more than two years.
Term		(4) Anyone who has served on the Council for a period of four years or more is ineligible for reappointment.
Time for appointment		(5) Within three months of the expiry of a term of office of a member, the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall appoint or reappoint a member as the case may be. 1988, c.7, s.5.
Meetings	6.	(1) The Council shall hold at least four meetings in each year.
Location		(2) Meetings of the Council may be held anywhere in the province. 1988, c.7, s.6.
Chairperson	7.	(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall appoint a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from the members of the Council.
Functions		(2) The chairperson is the chief executive officer of the Council and shall direct the activities of the Council and co-ordinate its work.
Vice-chairperson		(3) The vice-chairperson shall act where the chairperson is unable to act by reason of absence or inability. 1988, c.7, s.7.
Remuneration	8.	Members of the Council shall serve without remuneration other than: (a) such remuneration for attendance at each meeting of the Council as may be prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council; and (b) reimbursement for expenses necessarily incurred by a member in connection with the work of the Council. 1988, c.7, s.8.
Annual report	9.	Each year, on or before September 30, the Council shall submit to the Minister an estimate of the money required for the operation of the Council during the next fiscal year, setting forth the estimated revenue and expenditure in such detail and in such form as the Minister may require. 1988, c.7, s.9.
Audit	10.	The accounts of the Council shall be audited from time to time by the Auditor General whose report shall be included in the annual report of the Council. 1988, c.7, s.10.

PEI ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ACT

Advisory Council On The Status of Women Act

Cap. A-6

3

11. (1) The Council shall, within three months after the end of each fiscal year, submit to the Minister an annual report which shall contain

Annual report

- (a) a report of all meetings conducted by the Council during the year;
- (b) a report of the findings, conclusions and recommendations made by the Council to the Minister during the year.

(2) The Minister shall, within one month of the receipt of the report, present the report of the Council to the Legislative Assembly if the Assembly is then in session and, if it is not, then within one month after the commencement of the next ensuing session. 1988, c.7, s.11.

Minister to submit report to Legislative Assembly

12. The Council may employ or engage such persons as it considers necessary to carry out its functions. 1988, c.7, s.12.

staff

13. The Council may make bylaws for its internal management. 1988, c.7, s.13.

bylaws

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